

GULF DEFENDER



Vol. 64, No. 7

Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. *Gulf Defender*

Feb. 18, 2005

In brief

Income tax news

All military members who accomplished a do-it-yourself move in calendar year 2004, please be on the look out for a separate W-2 form. This amount was not included with your original W-2. For more information, please call Finance Customer Service at 283-4117.



What's inside



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The ORI is coming ...



... 121 days and counting

Smoke signals should ease Tyndall's fears

1ST LT. ALBERT BOSCO
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Natural Resources Flight's prescribed burn program has gained attention due to smoke filling Tyndall's skies.

According to Sarah Culhane, Tyndall's Wildlife Fire Program manager, the fires are a normal method of caring for the woodlands on the base, and people should not be alarmed.

"We're trying to reduce the large amount of undergrowth in a safe manner," she said. "People may not be used to seeing so much smoke in the air at one time. Recently we received several calls during an area burn from people who didn't know what was going on, so we want to ease their worries."

About 40 to 50 years worth of unburned brush has accumulated on Tyndall, making the burns necessary to prevent a wildfire from starting, said forestry technician Terry Walter.

"A lot of the brush was kept near the swampy areas on base and it was never burned, but the trees now need a clear area to reproduce and burning the brush promotes a healthier forest," he said.

Ms. Culhane said one of the fears of seeing so much smoke is that a large fire has broken out and may be burning out of control potentially threatening Tyndall people or structures.

But, she and Mr. Walter explained great care is taken when conducting controlled burns, beginning with choosing the right areas, right times and



Lisa Norman

John Jennings, a Tyndall forester, soaks a boardwalk to protect it from approaching flames during a controlled burn here Feb. 11. Controlled burns are necessary to keep from accumulating large amounts of underbrush, which could potentially fuel wildfires.

even waiting for the 'perfect' weather.

"We try to pick burn days with the right weather conditions so we don't end up with an out-of-control fire, but also so we don't impact the base's mission," Ms. Culhane said. "We also limit our burns to specific times of the year, like late winter, because it puts too much stress on the trees to burn when the weather is changing."

Ms. Culhane added the amount of smoke in the air varies by the type of burn taking place.

"Aerial burns cover a larger area, thus producing more smoke than hand-ignited

burns," she said.

While the flight is taking care of the forest by burning away built-up brush, it is also careful to take care of structures on base.

"Hand-ignited fires take a lot of time to burn, and we like to take it slow so the fire doesn't get away from us," Mr. Walter said. "We also cut the brush back and dig into the dirt to prevent the likelihood of a fire damaging a structure. Any time we burn near a structure, there are people on hand to keep an eye on it."

During a burn Feb. 11 near the Officers' Club and Sand Dollar Inn, the flight was sure to have forest rangers from

the Florida Division of Forestry on hand to keep the fire away from the boardwalk that runs between the two facilities.

"Usually fires don't get away," Mr. Walter said. "It's more likely an ember will float to another area than the fire to spread on its own while we're watching it."

According to Ms. Culhane, the flight still has two aerial burns and three hand-ignited burns to accomplish by mid-March, when the weather begins to warm up.

But folks in the area shouldn't worry about seeing a lot of smoke, because when it comes to fire, the Natural Resources Flight has it under control.

Annual awards worth more than smiles

SENIOR MASTER SGT. JEFFREY KAHAPEA
325th Fighter Wing career assistance advisor

Team Tyndall came together Thursday evening to recognize Tyndall’s top performers of 2004.

As we continue our fight in the Global War on Terrorism, we naturally tend to focus outwardly – on what’s going on over there. However, it’s important to also keep our focus here – on our own Airmen.

Many have deployed to support these overseas operations or may be preparing to deploy in the coming weeks, but a majority of our Airmen remain behind to keep Tyndall running on a daily basis.

One of the ways we maintain our focus on our Airmen is through the wing’s annual awards program. The program allows wing leadership, family and friends the opportunity to laud our best performers and recognize their contributions in fulfilling Tyndall and the Air Force’s mission.

Awards are important for Airmen as they

not only provide a sense of accomplishment, but also can make a difference when it’s time for promotion or to apply for a very selective job.

In our competitive Air Force, receiving an award can lead to bigger and better things. Awards are often a direct result of the support Airmen receive from their supervisors. Supervisors play a key role in enhancing an Airman’s career, and they play an absolutely critical role in providing the recognition that separates an Airman from their peers.

This year all of our nominees worked their best. They were and remain experts in their jobs, continually improving their knowledge through education, but they also served in the community. Being selected as a wing annual awards winner is a distinction our nominees should be proud of.

While the awards are important to the nominee in that they signify the culmination of a year-long endeavor to be the best, the

“This year all of our nominees worked their best ... being selected as a wing annual awards winner is a distinction our nominees should be proud of.”

SENIOR MASTER SGT. JEFFREY KAHAPEA
325th Fighter Wing career assistance advisor

winner’s supervisor should also be proud. Supervisors are the driving force behind our Airmen. Many have mentored their folks and encouraged them to get involved in base and community activities, attend college or training seminars and play intramural sports for their squadron.

Without supervisor involvement we would not enjoy the level of volunteerism that we do. Our entire base benefits from the positive impressions our volunteers leave when working with the community, and supervisors make it happen behind the scenes.

I’ve been honored to be selected as a wing award winner twice in my 17-year career. The awards opened job opportunities for me, and it’s truly a tribute to my supervisors, mentors, commanders and my family. Without their support I would not have been able to commit the time and energy needed to accomplish anything. I was filled with great pride and deep humility both times and was honored to be selected. I’ve also been a nominee for other awards and I felt the same pride and appreciation then.

It is truly wondrous to be nominated for an annual award; to stand before your peers and be recognized as being the best. Tyndall’s annual award winners are truly the best of the best! I want to congratulate all of you, both at the wing level and in your own individual career field level, and wish you great success in your future!

For a list of this year’s award winners, see page 9.

Wingman: where it comes from, what it means

LT. COL. LAWRENCE O. ROCHE
27th Intelligence Support Squadron

LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. (AFPN) -- The Romans, while not the first to understand the central principle behind having “wingmen,” were some of the first to document the importance of the wing position.

The most basic Roman battle lines were arranged with the infantry in the center and cavalry on the wings. The main purpose of the cavalry was to protect the center from being outflanked.

For the army to succeed, it was imperative that the infantry and cavalry understood and followed a pre-arranged plan and moved with a single purpose. Separately, neither the infantry nor the cavalry stood much chance at defeating an op-

ponent, but together, watching out for each other, they were a formidable force.

The Roman Empire and its lasting contributions to the civilized world would not have been possible without a well-disciplined army and sound principles.

The weapons used to wage war have changed dramatically since the Romans, but the principles guiding their employment have not. Today, one of the most important and trusted positions in a formation of aircraft belongs to the wingman. While we have exchanged cavalry horses for F-15 Eagles, the wingman’s job remains the same: to protect the lead aircraft.

So what does any of this have to do with us? As Airmen, we are all part of a much larger team. The

combined effect of individual efforts and skills make our Air Force the most powerful air force in the world. None of us could do our jobs without the support of others. We count on our teammates to do their part so we can do ours. We share a common purpose and we know when we need help, our teammates will be there to pitch in and make the mission a success. All of us need a wingman to succeed.

Being a good wingman is a 24-hour-a-day job. The principles apply both on and off duty and are anchored in personal commitment.

Good wingmen have many important qualities. First, they have a moral compass that always points true north. They know the right thing to do and take action to do it.

Second, they “keep their head on a swivel,” searching the horizon for any sign of trouble and step in to prevent it. Third, a good wingman learns to lead just as well as follow. We all must be prepared to step up and lead when required, just as we must all be ready to follow once a decision is made.

Although these ideas may seem somewhat abstract, they translate easily into everyday actions. Actions can be as simple as asking a teammate how they are doing and then listening to them when they tell you, or to taking the keys from a friend who has had too much to drink.

Being a good wingman means ensuring your supervisor isn’t bogged down with disciplinary issues due to your momentary lack

of judgment. It means taking the time to double check your work and fix any errors without being told.

A good wingman reminds his or her buddies about a meeting starting in five minutes. It means taking care of each other so the team can take care of the mission. It means protecting each other’s flank and building and keeping our trust in one another.

Our nation counts on us to defend its greatest possession, freedom. When we joined the Air Force we accepted that challenge and responsibility, and the price of failure is unacceptable.

Just like the Romans, individually we will fail, but together we are a formidable force. Our fellow Airmen and country depend on us to be great wingmen.

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Capt. Susan A. Romano	chief, 325th FW public affairs
1st Lt. Albert Bosco	chief, internal information
2nd Lt. William Powell	deputy chief, internal information
Senior Airman Benjamin Rojek	editor

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For more information, or to advertise in the newspaper, call (850) 747-5000.

AFPC announces procedures for GWOT service medal

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force Personnel Center Headquarters at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, recently released delegation clarification and administrative procedures for awarding the Global War on Terrorism Service medal.

According to the release, the secretary of the Air Force delegated approval authority for the GWOT-S medal to senior raters and above to identify entire units who deserve the medal.

If members supported the GWOT, but have not received approval for the medal, they must report to the commander's support staff with appropriate documentation such as official orders, decoration citations and travel vouchers to show number of days in support of the operation.

Initial approved operations include Operations Airport Security, Noble Eagle, Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

If currently non-deployed servicemembers do not have the proper documentation, they must justify their entitlement of the medal to the unit commander. If the unit commander concurs, he will provide a memorandum to the installation's awards and decoration's monitor attesting to the member's entitlement, operations supported and cumulative number of days.

Once the awards and decorations office receives the list of eligible recipients, the office will update the virtual military personnel flight information for each recipient. Qualified members are then encouraged to verify their VMPF records to ensure it reflects the GWOT-S medal. If the personnel records are not updated, members need to provide supporting documen-



tation to the awards and decorations office.

Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members seeking the award must bring all supporting documentation such as mobilization orders and DD Form 214s to the career enhancement section of their servicing MPF.

Air Force veterans and retirees who request the award should contact the National Personnel Records Center at (314) 801-0800.

For more information on the medal and who is entitled to receive it, contact the Tyndall MPF at 283-2276.

Action Line

The Action Line is your direct line to me. It is one way to make Tyndall a better place to work and live.

Action Line calls are recorded and staffed through the proper agency.


The goal is to provide you with an accurate, timely response. You must leave your name, phone number or address to receive a response.

Questions or comments of general interest will be published in this forum. This avenue should only be used after coordinating problems or concerns with supervisors, commanders, first sergeants or facility managers.

If you're not satisfied with the response or you are unable to resolve the problem, call me at 283-2255.

For fraud, waste and abuse calls, you should talk to the 325th Fighter Wing Inspector General's Office, 283-4646.

Calls concerning energy abuse should be referred to the energy hot line, 283-3995.




BRIG. GEN. JACK EGGINTON
325th Fighter Wing commander




ON THE STREET

What do you think of the proposal to put President Reagan on the \$10 bill?




"I think they should just keep it the way it is."

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS TIFFANY AURICCHIO
325th Fighter Wing Chapel




"I think it is a good idea because Reagan was one of the great presidents."

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS EVAN BAZELEY
95th Aircraft Maintenance Unit



"I think they ought to leave it just the way it is since it has been that way all these years. I don't see why we would change it."

HENRY RAAP
Air Force retiree



"I don't mind as long as it is still worth \$10."

MASTER SGT. CLAUDE THOMAS
325th Maintenance Operations Squadron

Altus Airman convicted of rape

ALTUS AIR FORCE BASE, Okla. (AFPN) — A court-martial found an Airman of the 97th Security Forces Squadron guilty of rape, dereliction of duty and falsifying an official statement recently.

After seven days of testimony and deliberation, a panel of officer and enlisted Airmen found Senior Airman Justin Howard guilty of one charge of rape and acquitted him of a second rape allegation. He was sentenced to three years confinement, dishonorable discharge, reduction to airman basic and total forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

The case centered on two separate events. The

first occurred in September 2003 when Airman Howard allowed a friend to pass through the main gate, knowing the person had been drinking alcohol. That same evening, Airman Howard made a false official statement to the security forces desk sergeant about conducting a walking patrol.

Later the same night, he admitted to the desk sergeant he had not been performing his duty, but instead he had sex while on duty.

The second event occurred in December 2003. Airman Howard had sexual intercourse with a female Airman knowing she was highly intoxicated


and unable to consent to the activity.

“It is important for people to understand that having sex with someone who is unable to consent (because of his or her) level of intoxication, is rape,” said Maj. Ralph Paradiso, 97th Air Mobility Wing military justice chief.

“The sentence should send a strong message that this type of behavior is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated in our community,” said Lt. Col. Karen White, 97th AMW staff judge advocate. “I hope others will learn from this case and not make the same bad choices that he did.”

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to come out ahead
of the pack.

QUIT

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YOUR LIFE

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Drunk Driving.
The phone
number is now
changed to
867-0220.**

AAFES offers bazaar shopping experience in Iraq

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq – The Army and Air Force Exchange Service opened a new bazaar at Camp Liberty Jan. 12 to “provide more shopping for Soldiers but also to help Iraq take another step forward in the rebuilding of the country,” said Dan Tompkins, AAFES Iraq vice president.

“This bazaar represents a historic moment; this facility was planned, coordinated, financed and built by the Iraqi vendors,” said Tompkins. “These entrepreneurs represent the future of Iraq, men who will not yield to the terrorists and will bring Iraq into the brotherhood of democracies.”

The bazaar building houses over seventy vendors selling everything from local perfumes to Iraqi souvenirs.

“Many of the vendors sell items that are unique to Iraq and provide Soldiers an opportunity to buy a true souvenir without having to go outside of the camp,” said Tompkins.

Shoppers at the all-Iraqi Liberty Bazaar can find items such as stained glass, handcrafted art, paintings, electronics, hardware items, custom made leather goods, Iraqi jewelry and footwear.

A unique centralized checkout system accepts cash and credit cards as well as the Department of Defense’s Military Star credit card. AAFES carefully monitors prices and products and all credit card transactions are conducted securely through the AAFES network.

The crowd of Soldiers on opening day quickly filed inside and within minutes the large facility was filled with hundreds of shoppers.

“The day’s sales also reflected the Soldiers’ approval of the new bazaar—we had outstanding sales on the first day,” said Bill Williams, AAFES Iraq services business manager. “The Liberty Bazaar is the most productive bazaar that AAFES operates on a continuous basis.”



Courtesy photo

Troops shop for hand-made Iraqi crafts at the newly-opened Camp Liberty Bazaar, near Baghdad, Iraq, while an Iraqi vendor looks on. Part of the revenue goes back into the local economy to help regenerate Iraqi businesses.

Eubank team visits Tyndall

STEVE RIDDLE
325th Services Squadron publicist

For an unprecedented third year in a row, the 325th Services Squadron has an opportunity to compete for the most coveted prize in the Air Force Services career field.

“The 325th SVS was recently selected as a semi-finalist in the competition to represent Air Education and Training Command for the 2005 Maj. Gen. Eugene L. Eubank Services Award,” said Lt. Col. Marc Piccolo, 325th SVS commander. “We’re going toe-to-toe with Altus Air Force Base, Okla., to see who will be named Best Small Services Unit in AETC and receive the honor of representing AETC in the competition.”

A team of three AETC evaluators arrived at the base Wednesday evening and attended an Icebreaker Party at the Tyndall Officers’ Club. They spent Thursday looking at various squadron facilities including the fitness center, community center, base library, the marina, lodging facilities and the vet clinic.

Today’s schedule will include visits to outdoor recreation, the Tyndall Youth Center, and the Raptor Lanes Bowling Center before the team departs this afternoon.

“The fact that we’re semi-finalists for this year’s competition proves that this is not a group that rests on its laurels,” Colonel Piccolo said. “They continue to find new and better ways to take care of customers. To be in the running again is a reflection on the consistent professionalism and enthusiasm of the people in our squadron.”

Squadron personnel were notified of the selection and scheduled visit just days before the team’s arrival, making the evaluation a “come-as-you-are” type of event for the squadron.

Some preparations for the upcoming evaluation still

had to be done, even with the short notice and the fact that nearly one third of the military personnel of the 325th SVS are presently deployed around the globe. But the squadron is used to supporting the Air Force mission both here and abroad, even with a reduced staff.

“Last year, 90 percent of our military members deployed at one time or another, and they provided outstanding support to our country’s war fighters,” explained Colonel Piccolo. “Back home, we never reduced any services, cut the hours of operation of any facility, or failed to meet any mission requirement in any way.”

Not only were services unaffected here, several facilities won prestigious awards in 2004. Two of the most prestigious include the Air Force Services Readiness Program of the Year award for the second consecutive year, and the National Alliance for Youth Sports award for outstanding youth sports programs.

One way Tyndall stands out is by offering unique programs. The Tyndall Community Center teamed with the Youth Center to offer adult and children’s surfing classes and will do so again this year. Attention to detail is another trait that puts 325th SVS facilities above others, which pays off in important ways. For example, the Tyndall Aero Club has operated for the past 26 years with zero accidents and zero incidents – a perfect safety record.

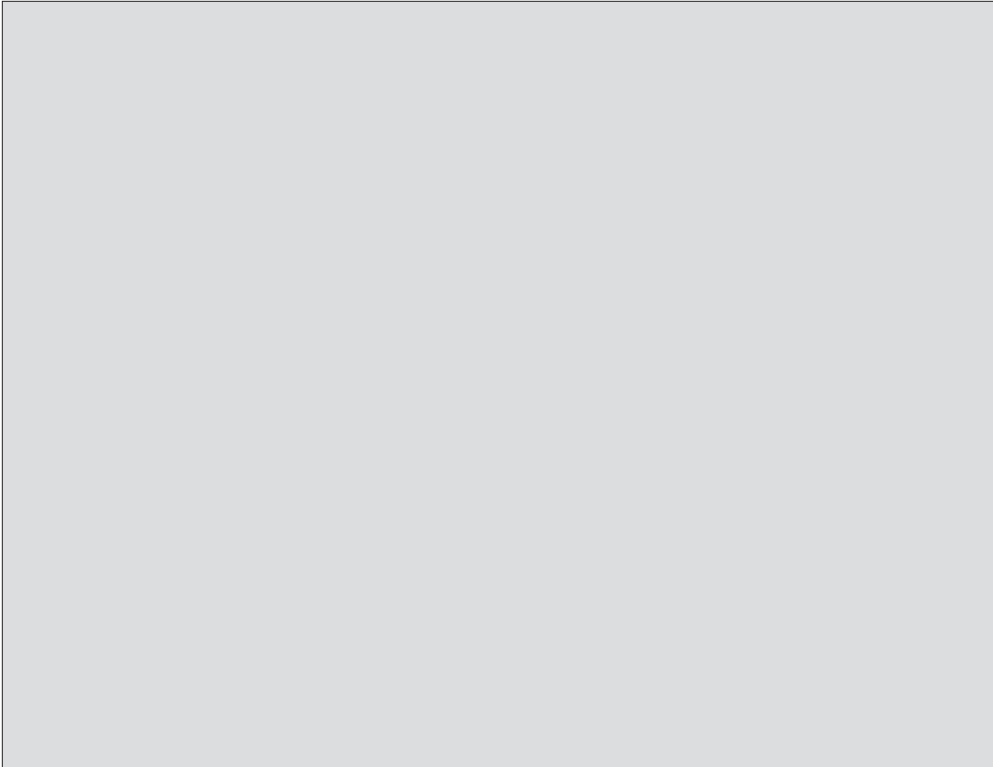
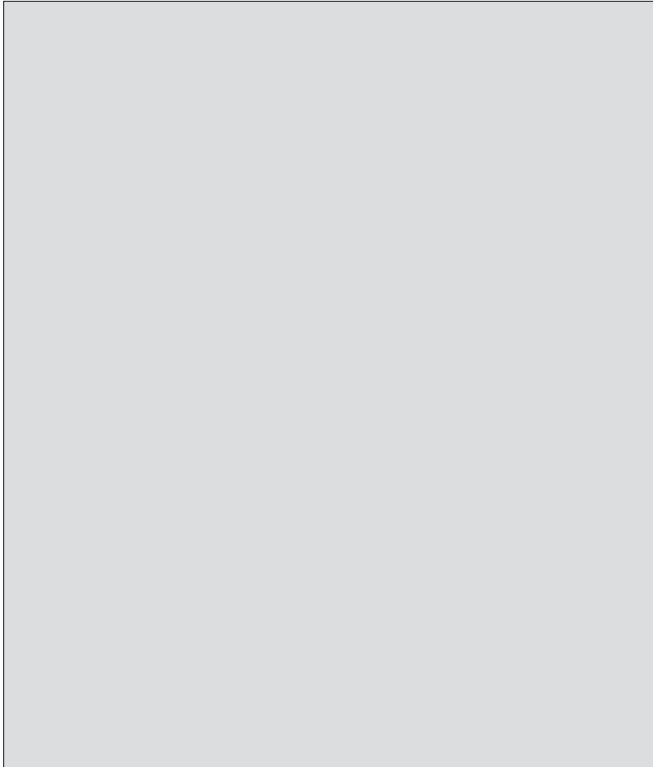
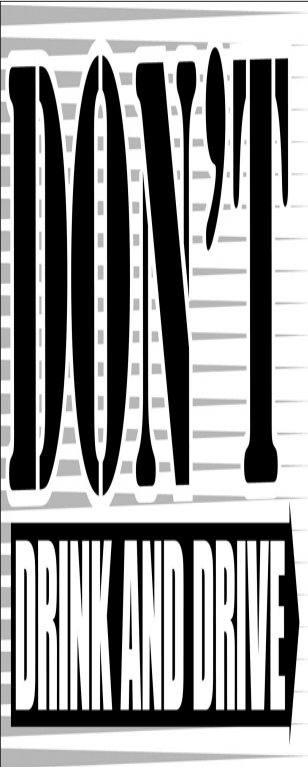
But according to Colonel Piccolo, one characteristic runs through the squadron that is responsible for all the successes. It’s a characteristic that is easily seen by the day-to-day customers of the squadron, and one that should be easily seen by the AETC Eubank evaluators, too.

“A high level of enthusiasm will be the first thing the evaluation team notices,” he said. “They approach the task of taking care of customers with a level of enthusiasm that is rare.”



Congratulations Tyndall’s January re-enlistees!

- Staff Sgt. Nathan Barber, 325th AMXS
- Tech. Sgt. Shawn Beard, 43rd FS
- Senior Airman Ryan Beatty, 325th AMXS
- Tech. Sgt. Lawrence Beckesh, 325th AMXS
- Tech. Sgt. Robert Brock, 325th AMXS
- Staff Sgt. Jerome Capalad, 325th CES
- Staff Sgt. Christopher Clark, 325th MSG
- Staff Sgt. Michael Divita, 325th CS
- Master Sgt. Craig Hall, HQ AFCEA
- Staff Sgt. Walter Harris, 325th MXS
- Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Holt, 325th AMXS
- Staff Sgt. John Jacob, 325th SFS
- Senior Airman Eugene Kuiper, 325th MOS
- Tech. Sgt. Timothy Megee, 325th CES
- Tech. Sgt. Tommie Morey, 325th AMXS
- Master Sgt. Kevin Olmstead, 823rd RHS
- Master Sgt. Kevin Patterson, 325th FW
- Senior Airman Christopher Penny, 325th MXS
- Senior Airman Quincy Perman, 325th ADS
- Senior Airman Remegio Quindara, 325th FW
- Senior Airman Joshua Reddish, 82nd ATRS
- Master Sgt. Elisabeth Reid, 83rd FWS
- Master Sgt. John Shields, 325th AMXS
- Senior Master Sgt. Daryl Shines, 325th MXS
- Tech. Sgt. Bret Stout, 325th CES
- Senior Airman Enrique Villalta, 325th SFS
- Senior Airman Donna Whitney, 325th OSS
- Staff Sgt. Frank Woods, 83rd FWS



SFS provides tips to decrease theft

(Editor's note: Thieves target easily accessed, unsecured property. The 325th Security Forces Squadron has provided a few basic security tips to make a thief's job more difficult and significantly decrease the chance of becoming a victim.)

When storing bicycles, motorcycles and trail bikes:

- Park out of direct line-of-sight; when available use a garage or basement.
- Always lock bicycles with an adequate chain or cable and lock

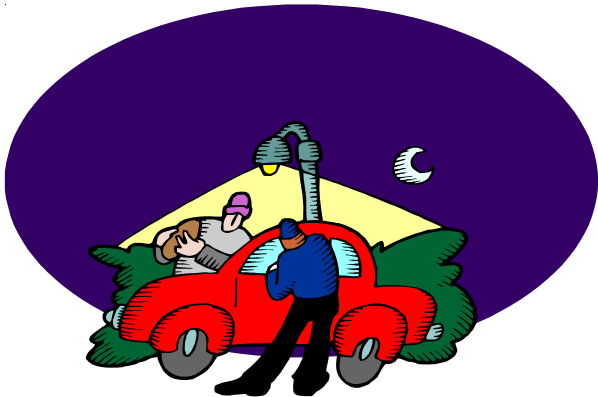
- Use the fork lock found on most street motorcycles when bike is in storage
- Invest in a heavy chain and padlock that resists conventional steel hacksaw blades
- Engrave the owner's name or last four of the social security number in an inconspicuous location

When parking vehicles remember to:

- Remove keys and lock the vehicle when the car is left unattended, even for a few moments
- Close windows when no one is present in the vehicle
- Lock valuables, to include purses and packages,


- securely in the trunk Don't leave valuables exposed that would tempt a criminal
- Park in well-lit, busy areas if available
- Always utilize any vehicle equipped anti-theft device
- Keep a copy of vehicle identification and license plate numbers in a safe location

- Check your license plates regularly to ensure they have not been tampered with or removed
 - Never attach personal information, address, or vehicle description to key rings
- (Courtesy of 325th Security Forces Squadron)*



NCO Academy
Graduates

Tech. Sgt. Brian Bryant, 325th MDOS
Tech. Sgt. Brian Byrd, 325th AMXS
Tech. Sgt. Christopher Campbell, 325th AMXS
Tech. Sgt. Calvin Carter, HQ AFCESA
Tech. Sgt. Thomas Edwards, 325th AMXS
Tech. Sgt. Dale Filsell, Det. 1, 823rd RHS
Tech. Sgt. Dean Gracey, 325th OSS
Tech. Sgt. Jennifer Gress, Det. 1, 823rd RHS
Tech. Sgt. Scott Jessen, 95th AMU
Tech. Sgt. William MacCarty, 325th AMXS
Tech. Sgt. Earl Mitchell, 325th AMXS
Tech. Sgt. Randy Norwood, 325th MXG
Tech. Sgt. Scott Phillips, 325th MDSS
Tech. Sgt. Brent Salvadori, Det. 4, 372nd TRS
Tech. Sgt. Michael Smith, 325th CS
Tech. Sgt. Brandon Sullivan, 95th AMU
Tech. Sgt. Philip Sutton, 325th CS
Tech. Sgt. Reuben Thompson Jr., 325th AMXS
Tech. Sgt. Timothy Van Horn, 325th AMXS




Fit for graduation

(From left) Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander, Staff Sgt. Dustin Schaal, 325th Communications Squadron network administrator, and Senior Airman Andrew Caskey, 325th CS system administrator, get ready to do 25 push-ups at the Airman Leadership School graduation ceremony for ALS Class 2005-2. The graduates were called to the stage by the general after the traditional roasting of the first sergeants and chiefs about the ALS Warrior Challenge softball game.

Checkertail Salute

Senior Airman Martha Dunning



Airman Dunning receives the Checkertail Salute Warrior of the Week award from Brig. Gen. Jack Egginton, 325th Fighter Wing commander.

The Checkertail Clan salutes Airman Dunning, who is the 325th Air Control Squadron's unit deployment manager. She is a co-author of the squadron's new fitness operational instruction and a group fitness leader. She co-organized the Golden Age Christmas Party, preparing dinner and gifts for more than 100 senior citizens. Airman Dunning was also voted the best Weapons Simulation Technician by International Officer Weapons Director students.

Duty title: 325th Air Control Squadron unit deployment manager
Time on station: Three years, two months
Time in service: Four years, eight months
Hometown: Torrance, Calif.
Hobbies: Traveling and fitness
Goals: Receive CCAF degree and then my bachelor's degree soon after
Favorite movie: "Kill Bill"
Favorite magazine: Fitness Magazine and Surfer Magazine
Pet Peeves: Unmotivated people
Favorite thing about Tyndall: The ocean
Proudest moment in the military: Being a member of the Tyndall Honor Guard

The Checkertail Salute is a 325th Fighter Wing commander program designed to recognize Tyndall's Warrior of the Week. Supervisors can nominate individuals via their squadron and group commanders. Award recipients receive a certificate, letter from the commander and a one-day pass.

The Gulf Defender is published for people like Airman 1st Class Jason Kelly, 2nd Aircraft Maintenance Unit.





"RESCUE" IS A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE ...

If life has you thinking there's no way out, it's time to call in the professionals.

Your base chaplain, the Life Skills counselors, and the people at 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433) are ready to help.

ONE SUICIDE IS ONE TOO MANY

Congratulations 2004 Team Tyndall Annual Award winners



Tyndall Air Force Base
Honor Guard of the Year
Senior Airman Joanna Taylor,
325th MXS



TeamTyndall
Airman of the Year
Senior Airman Paul Szymanski,
325th MSG



Tyndall Associate Unit
Airman of the Year
Senior Airman Fred Frazier,
Det. 1, 372nd TRS



Team Tyndall
NCO of the Year
Tech. Sgt. Samuel Spralls IV,
325th MDG



Tyndall Associate Unit
NCO of the Year
Staff Sgt. Edgard Castillo,
Det. 1, 823rd RHS



Team Tyndall
Senior NCO of the Year
Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Kahapea,
325th FW



Tyndall Associate Unit
Senior NCO of the Year
Master Sgt. Russel Ratley,
Tyndall NCOA



Team Tyndall
First Sergeant of the Year
Master Sgt. Paul Cornell,
Det. 1, 823rd RHS



325th Fighter Wing
First Sergeant of the Year
Master Sgt. Billie Hayden,
325th MDG



Team Tyndall
CGO of the Year
Capt. Rognald Christensen,
325th MXG



Tyndall Associate Unit
CGO of the Year
Capt. Jill Evenski,
Det. 2, 28th TS



Team Tyndall
Civilian of the Year Cat. I
Lisa Ramstad,
325th MDG



Tyndall Associate Unit
Civilian of the Year Cat. I
Donald Fox,
Det. 2, 28th TS



Team Tyndall
Civilian of the Year Cat. II
Wayland Patterson,
HQ AFCESA



325th Fighter Wing
Civilian of the Year Cat. II
Katherine Roberts,
325th MDG

Government authorizes compensatory time off for travel

2ND LT. WILLIAM POWELL
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A new federal regulation effective Jan. 28 authorized federal civilian employees to receive compensatory time off for time spent in travel status outside of regular working hours.

According to the regulation memorandum, travel status includes only the time spent traveling between an official duty station and a temporary duty station, or between two temporary duty stations, and the usual waiting time that precedes or interrupts such travel.

"An example of the 'usual waiting time' would be the time airline passengers spend at the air-

port before departing for a flight," said Kimberly Zakar, 325th Mission Support Squadron Human Resources specialist. "The one or two hours an employee must wait at the airport before their scheduled time is creditable time in travel status."

In addition, time spent at an intervening airport waiting for a connecting flight counts as travel status, but restrictions do apply, she said.

Compensatory time off for travel on a workday during regular working hours is not authorized because the employee receives basic pay for those hours. And if a person experiences an unusually long wait where he or she is free

to rest, sleep or use the time for his or her own purposes, the time may not be creditable, the memorandum stated.

Bona fide meal periods are also not considered time in travel status.

"For example, if an employee spends an uninterrupted hour eating a meal at an airport restaurant while waiting for a connecting flight, that hour is not counted," Ms. Zakar said. "In all cases, determinations regarding what are creditable waiting times are within the sole and exclusive discretion of the employing agency."

To receive compensatory time off for travel, the travel must be officially authorized for work

purposes, and travel status ends once the employee reaches his or her temporary duty station.

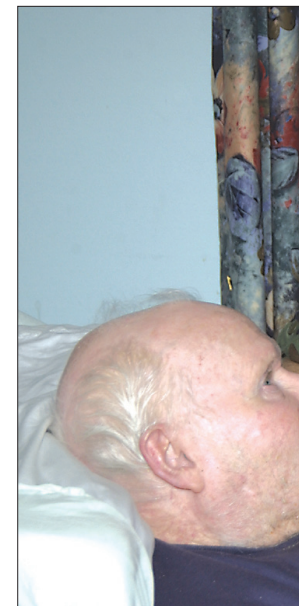
Employees must request permission from their supervisor to schedule use of accrued compensatory time off for travel in accordance with agency policies and procedures. Employees must use the accrued time off in increments of six or 15 minutes, and use all accrued time by the end of the 26th pay period after the pay period in which it was earned, or the time will be forfeited.

Tyndall civilian employees can contact Ms. Zakar with any questions at 283-8214.



Valentine's Day with Veterans

Tyndall Airmen bring joy, love to local community during annual seniors' visit



Airman 1st Class Rachel Petri-Rose, 325th Communications Squadron and Tyndall Active Airmen's Association member, talks to Air Force veteran Max Greenland at Sea Breeze Health Care in Panama City Monday. Mr. Greenland served 10 years in Japan and Korea.



Tech. Sgts. Dwayne Ward and Hector Gregory, Det 1 823rd RED HORSE Squadron, trade war stories with retired Air Force Col. William Hephill, a former B-17 Flying Fortress pilot.



Fern Green receives a red carnation from Airman 1st Class Billy Atherton, 325th Main members visited Sea Breeze Health Care in Panama City and delivered flowers and Va



Left: Airman 1st Class Jennifer Van Gils, 325th Maintenance Squadron and Tyndall Active Airmen's Association member, listens intently to Marine veteran Harold Smith at Sea Breeze Health Care in Panama City. Mr. Smith served in the Marines during World War II.



Photos by Steve Wallace

325th Maintenance Squadron and Tyndall Active Airmen's Association president. TAAA distributes valentine's Day cards to many senior residents.



Above: Airman Danielle Kirby, 325th Operations Support Squadron and First Term Airman Center student, gives Joseph Charchuck a Valentine's Day card at the Clifford Chester Sims State Veterans' Nursing Home in Springfield. Mr. Charchuck is a veteran of the 8th Air Force in England. His B-24 Liberator was shot down over Germany during his 17th mission and he was held as a prisoner of war. More than 20 FTAC and Det 1 823rd RED HORSE Squadron members visited Sims and GlenClove Nursing Pavilion Monday. Below: Tech. Sgt. Eric Bias, Det 1 823rd RHS, presents a valentine to Christine Sherman at GlenClove Nursing Pavilion in Panama City. Ms. Sherman is the mother of Stephen Sherman, a jet engine mechanic assigned to the 325th Maintenance Squadron.



Briefs

RAO volunteers

The Retiree Activities Office is seeking volunteers to assist with the various tasks associated with running the office. The RAO is an all-volunteer organization that provides assistance and information to Tyndall's retiree community on retiree-related issues. Those interested in volunteering should contact the office at 283-2737.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

ERAU Spring B 2005 Term Registration will be March 14–18. Class dates are March 21–May 21. Register for ERAU distance learning undergraduate courses through Feb. 28 for term dates March 15–June 6. Graduate distance learning course registration ends Tuesday for term dates March 7–June 20. Register for ERAU distance learning undergraduate courses through March 31 for term dates April 15–July 7. To register for all classes, come to Bldg. 1230, Rm. 49 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. For more information, call 283-4557.

GCCC workshop

Gulf Coast Community College is sponsoring a college information workshop 5 p.m. Monday at the Education Center, Rm. 58. The GCCC staff will share information about Federal Financial Aid, Veteran's Benefits, and Florida's official student advising Web site (FACTS). For more information, call 283-4332.

Special Olympics volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to help out with this year's Area 2 Special Olympics, being held March 19 at Tommy Oliver Stadium near Bay High School in Panama City. Approximately 150-200 volunteers are needed to serve on the following committees: sports, food, publicity, volunteer organization, awards, and equipment. Volunteers who may not have the time to allocate to a committee but would love to help in some way with the actual games are also needed. Volunteers can also escort the athletes, present awards, help feed the athletes, set-up and tear-down any equipment and other various jobs. People who have a special talent or hobby that children would enjoy are also needed and entertainers for the Olympic Village. Spouses and civic organizations are also welcome to volunteer. For more information, e-mail 2nd Lt. Maralyn Roedder at maralyn.roedder@tyndall.af.mil.

Heart Link session

The quarterly Heart Link session at Tyndall is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 25 at the Enlisted Club Classics Lounge. For more information, call the Family Support Center at 283-4204/4205.

Munitions closure

The Munitions Storage Area will be performing a closed warehouse inventory March 1–4. Only emergency issues will be met during this week. All personal documents must be correct



Steve Riddle

Here's 3,000 reasons to smile ...

(From left) Lt. Col. Marc Piccolo, 325th Services Squadron commander, presents a certificate to 1st Lt. Glenn Wright, 325th Maintenance Group quality assurance officer-in-charge, for winning the Air Education and Training Command's 2004 Air Force Club Membership Campaign grand prize. Lieutenant Wright had \$3,000 added to his club credit card account. Along with the \$3,000 grand prize, there were two drawings for \$1,000 and three for \$500. Team Tyndall member Master Sgt. Edward Fett, 83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron, won a \$500 award.

in order to make this run as smooth as possible. Issues or turn-ins must be scheduled before this week. For more information, call 283-0137.

Scholarship and camp opportunities

The Society of American Military Engineers has scholarship and summer camp applications and information are available at the SAME Panama City Post Web site: posts.same.org/panamacity/Programs_05.htm. Engineering and Construction Summer Camp applications for high school freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are due by March 15. High school seniors must submit scholarship applications by March 31.

OSC scholarship

Tyndall Officers' Spouses Club college scholarship applications are now available for qualified college-bound high school seniors and military spouses. Applications can be picked up at high school guidance counselors office or at the Tyndall Education Center. Deadline for application return is noon Feb. 25. For more information, call 286-1447.

Palace Chase force shaping

With the Air Force close to reaching their desired number of separatees, the Force Shaping program will soon be coming to a close. Members who are thinking about leaving active duty early can transfer their commitment into the Air Force Reserve without having to payback bonuses, and while maintaining many of the same benefits. There are Air Force Reserve opportunities available in many locations in the U.S. and overseas. Re-training into a different career field is also an option. For more information, please contact Master Sgt. Randi Baum at 283-8384 at randi.baum@tyndall.af.mil or visit the Military Personnel Flight, Bldg. 662, Rm. 222.

Massage therapist wanted

The Health and Wellness Center is seeking a massage therapist concessionaire to perform massage therapy at the Wellness Clinic, Bldg. 1307. This is a Non-appropriated Funds position. For additional information, contact Master Sgt. Otis Nattiel at 283-0137.

Men's varsity softball team

Men's varsity softball team tryouts are tentatively scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Saturday through Monday. Bad weather make-up dates will be announced if necessary. For more information, contact Maj. Eric North at 283-2054.

AAFES Holiday Hours

The AAFES overhead office, MCSS, Shoal Point, Service Station, Charley's Steakery, Robin Hood, Franks Kiosk, Burger King, Barber Shop, Flight Line Barber Shop, Beauty Shop, Laundry/Cleaners, Alterations, Optical Shop, Nail Salon and Fresh Cup Coffee will all be closed Monday due to President's Day. The main Base Exchange will be open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Class Six, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Felix Lake, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Anthony's Pizza, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and GNC, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Moms, pops and tots

The Tyndall Community Center is offering Powerful Parenting for Moms and Pops of Tots each Wednesday from 9–10:30 a.m. Bring your ideas on how we can make this a fun, exciting and educational experience for all. For more information, contact Laurie Campbell at 286-6501 or e-mail znory7@yahoo.com.

Chapel Schedule

Weekly Bible Study

The Bible study "Life Without Strife" meets from

6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday night at the Spiritual Fitness building by Chapel Two, in room 108.

Catholic services

Daily Mass, 11:30 a.m. Monday–Friday, Chapel Two
Reconciliation - before Saturday Mass or by appointment
Saturday Mass, 5 p.m., Chapel Two
Sunday Mass, 9:30 a.m., Chapel Two
Religious Education, 11 a.m., Bldg. 1476

Protestant Sunday services

Communion service, 9:30 a.m., Chapel One
Religious education classes, 9:30–10:30 a.m. Bldg. 1476
General Protestant service, 11 a.m., Chapel Two
Sunday Night Live Service, 6 p.m., Chapel One

Tyndall Chapel Lenten/Easter Schedule:

Ecumenical:
Lenten Devotions/Mass, 11:30 a.m., Chapel Two
Lenten Soup Luncheons will be at noon on Tuesdays through March 15 in Chapel Two
Catholic, in Chapel 2:
Stations of the Cross, Fridays of Lent, 6 p.m., Today through March 18
Palm Sunday Mass, 9:15 a.m. March 20
Holy Thursday Mass, 7 p.m., March 24
Good Friday Service, 3 p.m. March 25
Easter Vigil, 8 p.m. March 26
Easter Mass, 9:30 a.m. March 27
Protestant:
Palm Sunday Service, 9:30 a.m., March 20, Chapel One
Palm Sunday Service, 11 a.m., March 20, Chapel Two
Maundy Thursday, 5 p.m., March 24, Chapel One
Good Friday, 5 p.m., March 25, Chapel One
Easter Sunrise Service, 6 a.m., March 26, Shoal Point

COMM connects with back-to-back trophy wins



SENIOR AIRMAN BENJAMIN ROJEK
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 325th Communications Squadron received the Commander's Trophy for intramural sports for the second straight year Monday at a ceremony at the NCO Academy auditorium here.

The squadron that scores the highest amount of points for participation and placement in sports organized by the base fitness center is awarded the Commander's Trophy.

"This feels great," said Staff Sgt. William Gazzaway, 325th CS network systems maintenance technician and squadron sports representative. "We are proud that all our athletes gave 100 percent every game."

The squadron's alternate sports representative, Staff Sgt. Kane Mueller, 325th CS cable antenna systems technician, was no less enthusiastic.

"We have a lot of dedicated athletes," he said. "The big thing, though, is that the various games build camaraderie between the participants. Winning is just a bonus."

Lou South, 325th Services Squadron fitness center director, was impressed with the winning squadron's esprit de corps.

"The communications squadron displayed excellent sportsmanship throughout each sport in which they participated," Mr. South said. "But I have to give credit to Sergeant Gazzaway. He is an outstanding sports rep and was able to get full participation from his squadron."

Lt. Col. Curtis Frost, 325th CS commander, echoed Mr. South's comments.

"I am extremely pleased with all the fit-to-fight warriors in the 325th CS, especially my intramural sports rep Sergeant Gazzaway," said Colonel Frost. "He's the one who put all our teams together and participated in a few himself."

Sergeants Gazzaway and Mueller said their secret to success was not only creating a yearly sporting events calendar, they also made sure the squadron knew that it wasn't all about competition. Participating in these sports was also about having fun.

Col. Martin Sayles, 325th Mission Support Group commander, took notice of the squadron's maximum participation in intramural sports. He praised the squadron for their active participation.

"Winning the Commander's Trophy back-to-back is a huge achievement," he said. "If they go on and make it a three-peat this season, we may have to call them a 'dynasty' here at Tyndall. However, I'm positive other units can't wait to compete and try to take away the prestigious championship trophy in 2005."

With the 2004 season behind, Sergeant Gazzaway and his squadron's athletes are hoping to capture the first three-peat in Tyndall's intramural sports history.

"Our goal is to win the competition again this year," he said. "If any squadron gets a three-peat, they get to keep the Commander's Trophy and a new one is bought to pass around."

"We have a good start this year, since going undefeated in flag football," added Sergeant Mueller. "Our only competition now is ourselves."

Staff Sgt. Shawn Gamble, 325th Communications Squadron training scheduler, hits the ball during the first round of the intramural golf playoffs this year. The squadron scored 635 Commander's Trophy points to win this year's competition, with the 325th Air Control Squadron coming in second at 590 points.

Tigers, Hawks split final games

The Tyndall Tigers men's varsity basketball team, 23-5 in conference, 30-8 overall, split their two game set with the visiting Robins Air Force Base, Ga., Hawks in their final Southeastern Military Athletic Conference regular season games of the season.

In Saturday's game, the two teams fought to a 36-36 tie at the half. In the second half, Tyndall led by six points 48-42 with 15:10 remaining to be played, when suddenly Robins went on a 19-3 run to take a 61-51 lead with 10:51 remaining. With a double digit lead, Robins went into their delay game which forced Tyndall to foul. The Hawks connected on their free throw attempts down the stretch, combined with several costly turnovers by the Tigers, to seal their victory 94-85.

Omar Johnson paced the Tigers in scoring with 30 points, followed by Tysen Pina with 20, Anthony Showers and Mark Pough with 12 points each and Rob Montgomery with 10 points. Showers, Pina and Montgomery all tied for team rebounding honors with 11, and Pina led in assists with five. Al'B Marshall led Robins in scoring with a game-high 34 points.

Sunday's game saw the Tigers jump out to an early lead that they maintained throughout the half as they led 46-35 at the intermission. In the second half, the Tigers lead grew to as many as 14 points before Robins rallied to within five points, 79-74 with 2:58 remaining to be played. Tyndall went into its delay game and sealed the victory from the free throw line, finishing up at 85-79.

Omar Johnson again paced the Tigers in scoring with 23 points, followed by Tysen Pina with 19, Mike Clair and Mark Pough with 11 points each and Rob Montgomery with 10 points. Pina and Montgomery shared team rebounding honors with 10 each and Johnson again led in assists with 11. Al'B Marshall again led Robins in scoring with a game high 29 points.

The Tigers travel to Robins AFB today, where they will attempt to three-peat at the SEMAC Post Season Men's Basketball tournament Saturday-Monday. For more information contact the Robins AFB Fitness Center at DSN 468-2128/9 or commercial (478) 926-2128/9.

(Courtesy Tyndall Tigers)

Upcoming Free Movies at the Tyndall Enlisted Club

6 p.m. Thursday, Lemony Snicket's Series of Unfortunate Events

This is the story of the Baudelaires, three young orphans, Violet, Klaus and Sunny, looking for a new home, who are taken in by a series of odd relatives and other people, including Lemony Snicket, who narrates the film, and starting with the cunning and dastardly Count Olaf, who hopes to snatch their inheritance from them. Violet is the oldest of the Baudelaires at 14, and is their brave and fast-thinking leader. The only boy is middle child Klaus, 12, who is intensely intelligent and obsessed with words. The youngest is infant Sunny, who speaks in a language only her siblings can understand, and she has a tendency to bite. *(Courtesy of www.imdb.com)*

6 p.m. March 3, National Treasure

Benjamin Franklin Gates descends from a family of treasure-seekers who've all hunted for the same thing: a war chest hidden by the Founding Fathers after the Revolutionary War. Ben's close to discovering its whereabouts, as is his competition, but the FBI is also hip to the hunt. *(Courtesy of www.imdb.com)*





Funshine NEWS



www.325thservices.com

All Ranks at the O' Club **Sunday Brunch**

Feb. 27
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
\$8.95

- Menu -

Meat Carving Station
Omelets
Belgian Waffles
Sausage
Bacon
Hash Browns
Fresh Fruit
Muffins
Danish
Biscuits & Gravy
Scrambled Eggs

Champagne Available - add \$3
Members, show your club card
to receive a \$1 discount!

283-4357



All Ranks at the Enlisted Club

Free Movie Night

Thursday

**Lemony Snicket's
A Series of
Unfortunate Events**

Rated G

Movie 6 p.m.

Three wealthy children's parents
are killed in a fire. When they are
sent to a distant relative, they
find out that he is plotting to kill them
and seize their fortune.

Snack Bar Items Include:

Pizza, hot dogs, chili dogs,
nachos, popcorn, candy, & soda.

Youth under age 16 must be accompanied
by an adult. Movies subject to availability.

283-4357

Community Center

☎ 283-2495

Base Level Chess Tournament

Saturday, 11 a.m.

Three categories to compete:

- (1) Youth: Six through 18 yrs.
 - (2) Active duty AF Members
 - (3) DOD Civilians, contractors, spouses,
eligible family members & retirees.
- Awards for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place
in each categories.

All participants must sign-up by Friday

Pizza Pub in the CAC Nascar Race Sunday

Daytona 500

Pizza Pub opens at
11:30 race begins at noon

Races shown at the Pizza Pub

Prizes for participation will be given
at each event. Must be a current
AETC Club member to win.

283-3222 for details

Youth Center

☎ 283-4366

Congratulations 325th Services Squadron

for being selected to compete
for the
AF Maj. Gen. Eugene L. Eubank
Services Award nomination

Get ready to... Skate Like a Pro

Sign up for Freestyle/Flatland Skateboarding.
Learn basic to advanced tricks taught by
former World Freestyle Amateur Champion
and current touring professional
John Leathers. Classes are open to ages seven
and up and the cost is \$20 per session or
\$75 for 4 sessions.
Classes are held at the Youth Center gym
and will include special skate trips
with Team "TNT" and special guest skaters.
Program dates and times are as follows:

Feb. 26: Skatepark Trip

Mar. 12: 10-12 p.m.

Mar. 26: 10-12 p.m.

Call 283-4366

for more information.



FREESTYLE

Sports Page Pizza Pub at the CAC

Karaoke

Are you a singer,
musician,
comedian or poet?

Come out and join us!

Wednesday

5 to 9 p.m.

1/2 off all Appetizers

\$1 Beverage Specials

Call 283-3222

or 283-2495

for more information.



Play Texas

Hold 'Em !

All Ranks at the Enlisted Club

Begins Feb. 26

Play every Saturday for seven weeks.

Grand Championship April 16

\$15 per player per week includes food and \$5,000 in chips

Nightly winner has chance to draw a "Royal Flush" and win a car.

Top three nightly winners awarded prizes

Seating is limited.

Sign up today.

Call 283-4357

Must be active USAF Clubs members.

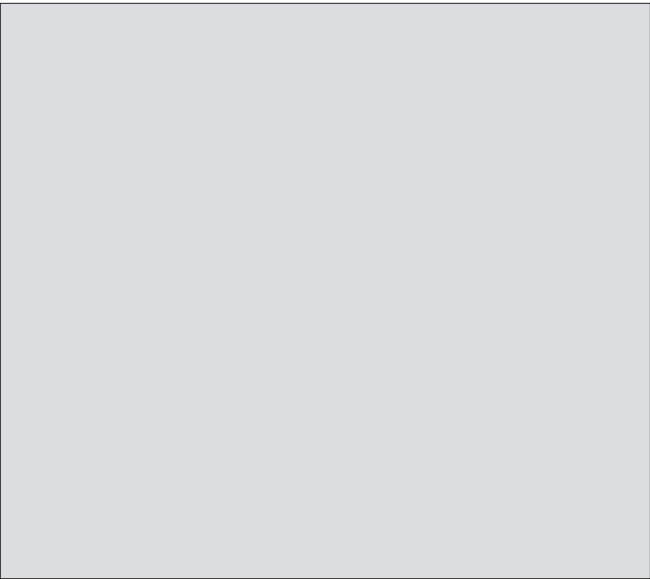
Tyndall Enlisted Club



March 5, 8 p.m.

Latin dance night is on the first Saturday
of each month

For details call 283-4357

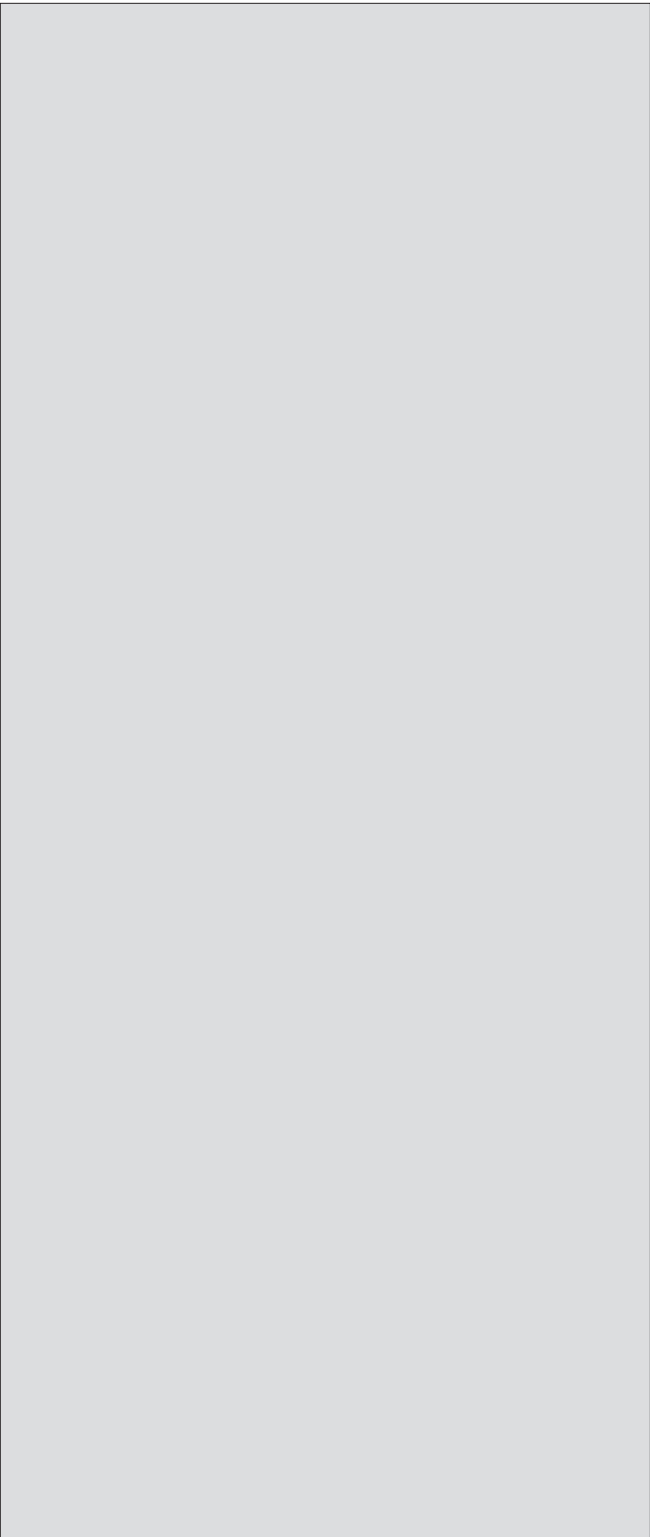


Don't try this at home ...

Staff Sgt. James Salas, 325th Medical Operations Squadron assistant NCO-in-charge of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment program, demonstrates alcohol impairment by using "beer goggles" while trying to catch a ball. For more information on the ADAPT program or other services offered by the Life Skills Support Center, call 283-7511.



Senior Airman Benjamin Rojek



Tyndall gears up for NASCAR

STEVE RIDDLE
325th Services Squadron publicist

Just two weeks after treating NFL fans to a Super Bowl party extravaganza, the Sports Page Pizza Pub, located in the Tyndall Community Center building, is now giving NASCAR fans something to cheer about.

The 2005 NASCAR Program will give Air Force Club members a chance to win weekly gift certificates good on nascar.com, and compete in a drawing to win a trip for two to the Checker Auto Parts 500 at Phoenix International Raceway.

The Air Education and Training Command-sponsored program actually started Saturday with the Budweiser Shootout, a pre-season NASCAR Nextel Cup race that features last year's pole winners, race winners and previous shootout winners. It continues Sunday with the 46th running of the Daytona 500 and will run through the Pennsylvania 500 event at Pocono Raceway July 24.

"We'll be showing all those races on the big screen and our other TV sets," said Amanda Eriksson, Pizza Pub manager. "We'll open up about a half hour before the race begins and stay open until after they wave the checkered flag."

Club members will enter a drawing each week they come

in to watch a race. At every race, two names will be drawn – one for a \$100 gift certificate and one for a \$50 gift certificate to be used to purchase items on the nascar.com website. The two winning names will also be entered in the grand prize drawing.

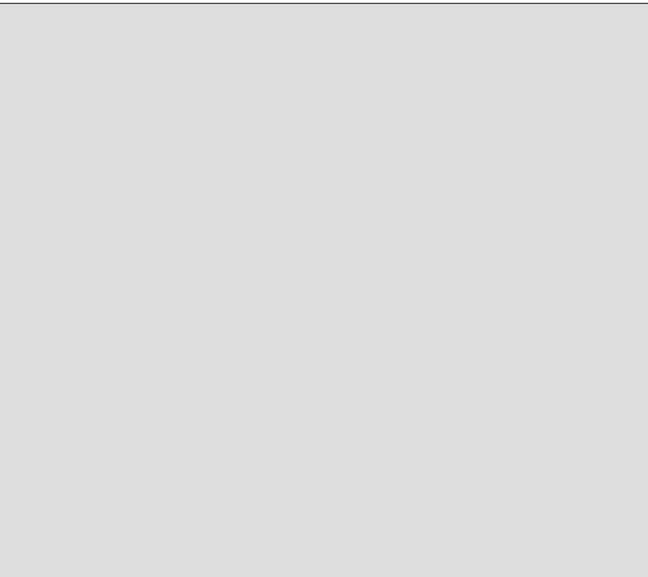
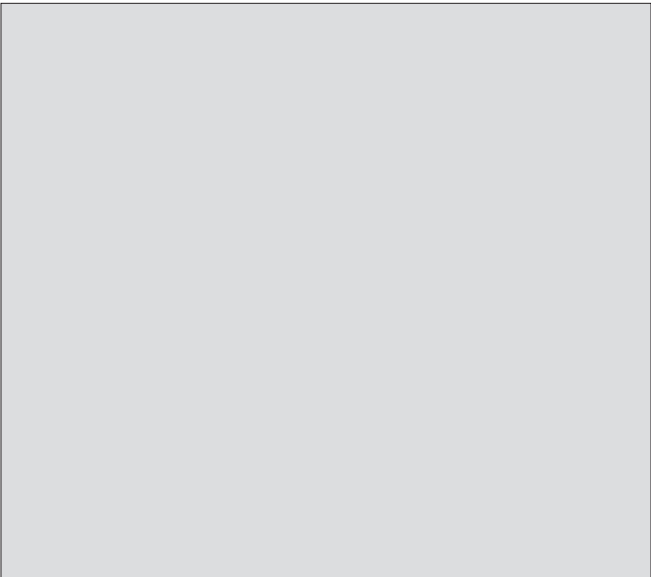
The grand prize winner will receive airfare, hotel accommodations, a rental car, and two tickets to the Phoenix race. Second place will receive a \$500 gift certificate for nascar.com, and third place will receive a \$250 certificate.

Ms. Eriksson said the gift certificates seem to work out best for fans because it gives them a chance to get gear featuring their favorite driver, it lets them pick their prizes at their own pace, and it gives them the flexibility to choose what they win.

"With the certificates for gear from the website, they can take their time in purchasing what they want," she explained. "And if they happen to go over, say \$10, they can just pay the extra."

During the races, the Pizza Pub will also have drink and beverage specials, including a one-topping pizza and choice of pitcher beverage for \$10.50.

For more information, contact the Sports Page Pizza Pub at 283-3222.



Greenbelts today, crew chiefs tomorrow

SENIOR AIRMAN BENJAMIN ROJEK
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

It doesn't matter if you call the 372nd Training Squadron/Detachment 4 students greenbelts or Mission Ready Airmen, because they know that once they graduate they'll all be called crew chiefs.

But for four weeks, they are trainees here, learning the daily tasks of maintaining the F-15 Eagle and, yes, wearing green belts.

"The wearing of the green belts started as a way to identify the students working on the flightline," said Senior Airman Fred Frazier, a 372nd TRS/Det 4 MRA instructor here. "If they're working on the flightline with their BDU top off, they look just like another crew chief. We're with the students most of the time, but if we're away and an expeditor comes up and asks them to tow a jet, he'll know they're a student."

Although they may not be able to tow a jet without an instructor yet, the MRA students have already learned a lot by the time they get here.

Their training starts at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. Crew chief students spend four months learning about and working on F-15 Eagles. Once they finish all training there, the students are sent on temporary duty here to complete their schooling.

"These students are still in technical school, with military training leaders and dorm inspections," said Airman Frazier. "A lot of people don't realize that there is a technical school on base."

Just like at any military technical school, the students here are put through intense training in a short period of time.

"At Sheppard, the students learn



(From left) Staff Sgt. Jake Bennett, a Mission Ready Airmen instructor, instructs Airman Chris Denham, an MRA student, on how to fasten a panel on an F-15 Eagle prior to launching it for a sortie. Airman Denham is nearing his last week of the four-week course.

in-depth maintenance," said Airman Frazier. "When they get here, they learn the daily tasks of an Eagle crew chief: service, launch and recover, inspection, and forms."

But, he added, the only way to learn these daily tasks and become proficient is by working on functional jets.

"The training here is more realistic than at Sheppard," said Airman 1st Class Matthew Peterson, a 372nd TRS/Det 4 MRA student. "At Sheppard, we worked on jets that sat in a hangar all the time. If you lost a tool, you had time to look for it. Here, if we lose a tool, the jets are grounded. You have to be more careful with what you do."

Not only is the maintenance more realistic, but this is also the first time the students are able to launch and recover the jets.

"Everyone was nervous at first when it came to launching and recovering jets," said Airman Peterson, who graduates today. "But

the training here helps you feel more at ease working with a live jet."

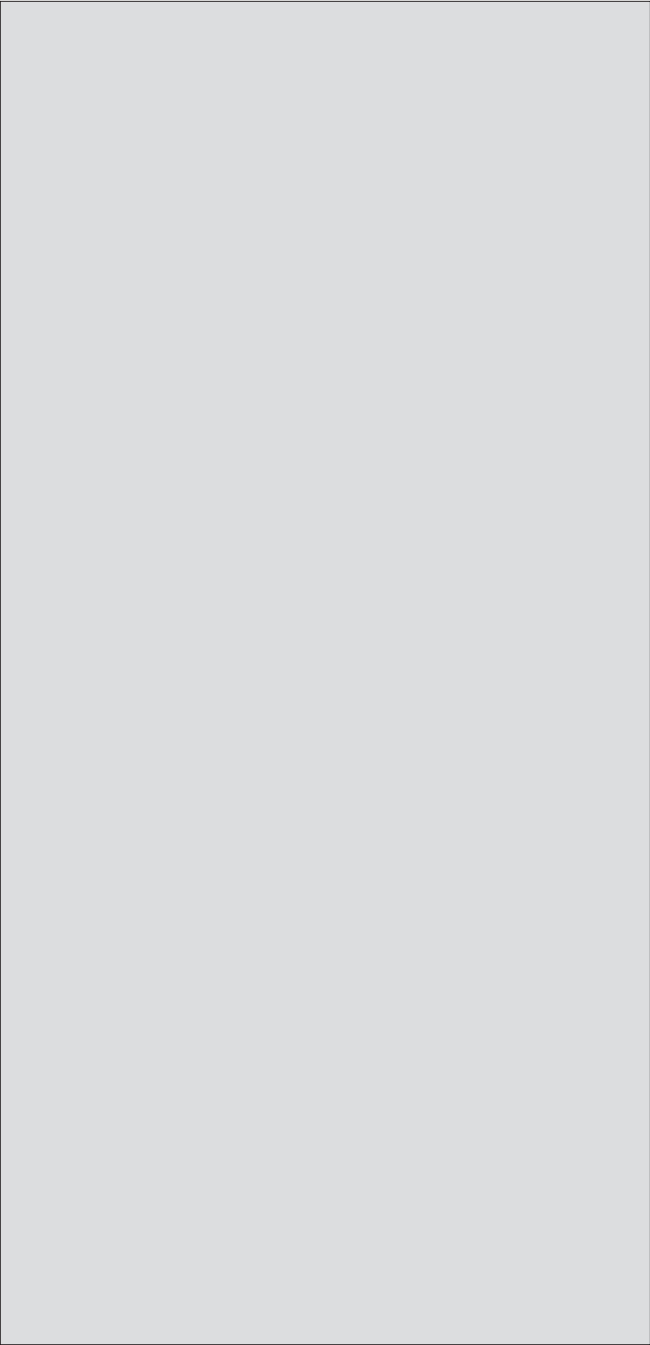
And after 160 training hours, the students should feel at ease, because they finally get to graduate and move on to their operational bases.

"The graduations here are on a smaller scale," said Airman Frazier. "We have about 600 students yearly. There are just too many classes running at any one time for a large scale graduation ceremony."

But the ceremony isn't the important part for students like Airman Peterson.

"I can't wait to graduate," he said. "I'll finally be able to go out and put to use what I've been taught."

"The F-15 is the jet I've always wanted to work on," he continued. "This isn't an opportunity everybody gets."



Isaac Gibson

Welcome
ABM Class
06002

Back row: (from left) Capt. Jody Wolfley, 2nd Lts. Gary White, David Chapman, Roland McElveen, Kenneth Francis, and Louis Griffith. Front Row: (from left) 2nd Lts. Natalie D’Alessandro, Jonathan Cowell, Joshua McQueen, James Capra, Malinda Chatraw, and Dennis Amico.



Training Spotlight

As an F-15 Eagle pilot, what will you be doing when you get to your operational duty station?

“I’m going to begin Mission Qualification Training, after which I’ll become a fully qualified F-15 wingman.”

CAPT. SAM JOPLIN
F-15 Eagle B-Course student

Going to
Eglin Air Force Base,
Florida

